

3.0 PURPOSE OF THE HISTORICAL SITE ASSESSMENT (SCOPE)

3.1 AUTHORITY

Since 1988, Congress has enacted legislation providing for the closure, in part or in whole, of military bases/facilities and the realignment of others. The principal mechanism for implementing the policy in both statutes has been an independent, bipartisan commission. Two of the most pressing issues are: (1) providing assistance to local communities economically impacted by base closures; and (2) establishing a cost-effective program of environmental cleanup at bases prior to their disposition.

Congress introduced base closure procedures in Public Law 100-526, enacted 24 October 1988. The statute established a bipartisan commission to make recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Defense on closures and realignments, commonly referred to as the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC).

On 5 January 1989, the Secretary of Defense approved the commission's report, BRAC 88, recommending closure of 86 installations, partial closure of 5, and realignment of 54 others. Since the commission approach adopted by Congress was successful, new base closure legislation was introduced (Public Law 101-510) which again relied upon the services of an independent commission. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment of 1990 (1990 Base Closure Act), Public Law 101-510 established the process by which Department of Defense (DoD) installations would be closed and/or realigned. This commission, in accordance with a statutory provision, met in 1991, 1993 and 1995. Fort McClellan, Alabama, was among the installations that were recommended to be closed in the BRAC 95 report.

3.2 SUBJECT

Fort McClellan abuts the city of Anniston, Alabama and lies within Calhoun County. During the Spanish American War (1898), units stationed at Camp Shipp in the Blue Mountain area may have used the area for artillery training. Documented military use began in 1912 when the Alabama National Guard used part of the site as a Field Artillery Range. In 1917, Congress authorized the establishment of Camp McClellan. In 1929, the camp became officially designated as Fort McClellan. Following World War II, the Fort was put into an inactive status in June of 1947. The Fort was reactivated in January of 1950 and has remained an Active Army Installation. The U.S. Army Chemical School was a tenant activity from 1951 to 1973 and again from 1979 to 1999.

This report covers the main post and the Choccolocco Corridor only. It does not cover Pelham Range.

3.3 PURPOSE

This Radiological Historical Assessment compiles information obtained through historical research at various archives and records holding facilities, interviews with persons associated with Fort McClellan or its operations, and a team inspection of the site. The search directs efforts towards determining possible use or disposal of Radiological Materials on the site. The research places particular emphasis on establishing the types, quantities, and area of disposal. This process obtains information for use in developing recommendations for further action at Fort McClellan.

3.4 SCOPE

This investigation focuses on the potential that Radiological Contamination could remain on Fort McClellan's main post and the Choccolocco Corridor; however, no documents were found indicating that radioactive materials were ever present in the Choccolocco Corridor. The primary focus was the use of Radioactive Isotopes by the Chemical School from 1952 to 1973. Of specific interest was 1952 to 1957 timeframe, when the Chemical School was not required to have a license from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). This report presents the following:

- A brief history of Fort McClellan
- Historic use of Radioactive Isotopes
- A listing of related site investigations
- Findings of the site inspection
- Description of Radiological uses identified with the site

These factors represent the basis for the evaluation of potential Radiological Contamination and associated risks at Fort McClellan (Main Post).